Boating Family experience continues with a boat cruise to Caladesi Island Oct. 15.

The experience offers local kids an opportunity to see the Florida coastline, visit Caladesi Island and gain insight to area aquatic wonders and local history.

The events are designed to provide to children that may not have access or means to experience activities that are local, available and positive.

The Caladesi Island experience is the first time on a boat for many. Along the way, they are taught about the local Intracoastal Waterway, manatees, dolphins, birds, the islands, local landmarks and other sights, sounds and smells of the coastal environment.

Thanks to the Honeyymoon and Caladesi Park Service, the children experience the trails, beaches and sights of one of the nicest parks in Florida.

While on island, participants get instruction on local wildlife, sea-life and Island residential history.

The program begins at 7:30 a.m. at Port Tarpon Marina. A team logs participants’ names and assigns life jackets.

When boats arrive at the island, participants will separate into teams. The Park Service will provide an orientation.

The event relies on cooperation of a variety of local business and social groups. Organizers are still seeking volunteers and boats to help with the event.

Volunteers are still needed. Please contact club president Sue Carson or chair Mike Johnson to volunteer.

Local kids will get a taste of salt water Oct. 15 when the RCTS Boating Family hits the water for Caladesi. The program gives local kids experience in water safety and environment concerns in the area.
**Ian whacks Florida, social cancelled**

After tracking south hurricane Ian hit the Florida coast. Hurricanes may not be plentiful this season, but they have not gone away.

What promised to be a huge Tarpon Springs hurricane became a huge rain event when Ian moved south. Because of the storm uncertainty, President Sue cancelled the last event of the Rotary month, a social at Blackbeard’s in town. Meetings resume as scheduled next week.

**Regular board meeting varied, actions voted**

The board dealt with a variety of issues at its regular monthly meeting.

- BOD approved three new members: Christina Hansel, James Kopka, Andrew Nikforakis. They will be installed Oct. 6. An orientation for potential new members will precede the regular meeting.
- About seven others have expressed interest in membership.
- IPP Tekoa board members to attend the District Polio Plus BBQ & Walk Oct. 29. The club announced two new Paul Harris members, Chris Dufala (+2) and Rich Lundahl (+6).
- Rtn. Celia gave a summary of our successful Triathlon. The survey has gone out for the Strategic Planning Committee and was due Sept. 15. One of the ideas floated for the Harold Haftel donation is to landscape and line the parking lot at the Boys & Girls Club. A suggestion was also made to put a shed there to store club

**Member Spotlight**

**Malamatos new to Tarpon, Rotary, but quite active**

“Owning my first service station at age 19 and my second location at age 22,” he said. “At the ripe old age of 26 I sold my businesses and was recruited into the automotive corporate world, shortly thereafter.”

He left Indiana for Las Vegas, moved to Virginia Beach for five years, where he bought another service station and towing firm. He moved to Florida several years later while continuing an automotive industry career.

In addition to working as a mortgage loan officer, he also provides business finance software and consulting services.

**Rotary faces are happy faces**

[Images of three people: Cari Rupkalvis, Mark Koulianos, Mike Johnson]
Shoebox Ministry brings Christmas joy to kids

Some 10 million children in more than 100 countries are happy at Christmas thanks to Shoebox Ministries’ “Operation Christmas Child” program.

Volunteers solicit gifts and donations and pack boxes of Christmas gifts and toys for kids who might not otherwise have a holiday.

Locally, the First United Methodist Church in Palm Harbor packs about 1,000 boxes.

The special Christmas cheer is then shipped by car, truck, train, plane, boat and (even) camels to children around the globe.

The local representative, Doug Meyer told members the charity is always looking for donation, packed boxes and volunteers.

When you “see kids cheering,” he said, you know you are doing the right thing.

“We once sent some wool gloves to the Sahara Desert,” he recall with a smile. But, they were used. The recipient, Meyer reminisces “was a baker.”

Guest Speaker Doug Meyer explains program that brings holiday cheer to more than 1,000,000 children worldwide.

Polio rears head after billions

(CNN) A person from Rockland County, New York, has been diagnosed with polio, the first case identified in the United States in nearly a decade.

The unvaccinated young adult began experiencing weakness and paralysis about a month ago, county Health Commissioner Dr. Patricia Schnabel Ruppert said Thursday.

The case comes nearly a month after the UK Health Security Agency warned that it had detected poliovirus in its surveillance of London sewage samples, indicating that there had been some spread between closely linked individuals in North and East London, although no cases had been identified there.

Polio is an infection caused by the poliovirus. About 1 in 4 infected people have flu-like symptoms including sore throat, fever, tiredness, nausea, headache and stomach pain. As many as 1 in 200 will develop more serious symptoms that include tingling and numbness in the legs, an infection of the brain or spinal cord, and paralysis, according to the US Centers for the Disease control and Prevention.

Foundation trustee honored again

Rtn. Rich Lundahl was recognized for his PHF +6 at today’s meeting. Always active in club activities, he is currently on the club’s board.

He is also a strong contributor to annual triathlon fundraiser, both financially and in participation.

Rich has been a Rotarian for more than 10 years and has served as a chair and trustee for the club’s foundation. He has been instrumental in several large donations.

He is married to Heather, a music teacher and band director.

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And the winners are....
Volunteers worked, played hard on cloudy day

Race day is over and the clouds held rain at bay. Some 250 volunteers came out to help the Rotary Club of Tarpon Springs as it held its 32nd annual Triathlon. Several dozen members came out to help with the club’s premier fundraiser for the year.

TOP LEFT: Rtn. Ron savors a beer and cookie as the triathlon begins to wind down. LEFT: Race chair Celia announces winners TOP RIGHT: Rtn. Sofia looks happy and relieved BOTTOM LEFT: Rtn. Jacqui monitors progress BOTTOM RIGHT: Rtn. Perry is in usual line of fire as he captures winners crossing the finish line.
Triathlon crowd enjoys day at beach, race, sun

TOP LEFT: Smiling faces enjoy perfect day
TOP RIGHT: Racy costumes enhance race day
MIDDLE RIGHT: Crowds throng post race
MIDDLE: Smiles after hard races
BOTTOM RIGHT: Tired but happy end to race
ABOVE MIDDLE: Proud family greets competitor
ABOVE LEFT: Youngest fan checks out the venue
Triathlon participants enjoy near perfect race day
Volunteers get accolades; Dufala gets Paul Harris +2

More than 200 people help put the RCTS Triathlon on, according to race director Rtn. Celia. She spent the meeting calling names—those who worked hard.

Community members who volunteered got lots of praise, but so did members who took time away from busy schedules to lead. Most were familiar in Rotary work: Wikle, Cullu, Haddad, Trask, Stolz, Lundahl, Karay, Dufala, Bean, Koulianos, Causey, Hoffman.

Club recognizes volunteers, Rtn. Chris pinned
Race day was almost here when the club met for its Sept. 8 regular meeting. Rotarian and race director Celia filled members in on progress toward the big day Sept. 10 at Howard Park.

“I set a goal of 300 racers,” she said. “And we are at 370 right now.”

She also noted that her $25,000 goal in sponsorship had been met.

In its 32-year history the race has changed.

Several years ago a 5K run was added. Since then, the triathlon has added the duathlon, aqua bike and Olympic events.

Olympians basically do a double triathlon. They run twice, bike twice and swim twice.

“Our members cover the cost of the race,” she said. “Our sponsors are the reason we have awarded 125 scholarships.” Additionally, she added, some 350 partial scholarships have been awarded.

RCTS members begin arriving at the park at 4 a.m. Rtn. Robin is “literally the gatekeeper,” Celia said. “The first event kicks off at 7:30.”

The Olympians are the first heat. The next group hits the water 30 minutes later with each successive wave of racers beginning three minutes apart.

Rtn. Celia called out volunteer coordinator Joan Stolz for handling 250 volunteers. “Her job is much harder than mine,” Celia allowed.

She is still looking for nearly 30 volunteers to staff the bike race route. Police handle traffic control, but each intersection along the route has a volunteer there in case of trouble or questions.

Participants can register right up to the time the race begins. Rtn. Celia thinks she may get another 30 or so racers.

“But 10 percent will be no shows,” she said. “Another 10-20 percent may not participate if it rains on race day or the day before.

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Members get social time prior to race preparation

Immediate Past President Robin asks members to join her in giving thanks for all that Rotary represents and the many blessings in our lives. She gives especial thanks for the many who make the triathlon possible.

Rtn. Rich exhorts members to sing their hearts out to the flag.

While the triathlon consumed most of the meeting, several other events were announced.

Related to the triathlon is the Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon. Rtn. Celia said that would take place Nov. 17.

The next Boating Family event is mid-October. Chairman Rtn. Mike Johnson is looking for additional volunteers and boats. The program takes young people to the beach and introduces them to both the outdoors and water activities. Rtn. Ron Haddad reminded members that again this year the club will ring bells for the Salvation Army. As has been the tradition, the club will cover the Publix and Walmart areas. He will call for volunteers as the event draws closer.

FL peers honor Rtn. Hoffman

The American Architectural Institute selected the 100 most influential buildings in Florida.

Rtn. Eddie Hoffman’s Leeper Ratner Museum design was selected as one of those buildings.

He said it was a honor for his 40 years as a community leader and local architect.


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Rtn. Ed hears plans for the triathlon. Member attendance is rebounding with more than 30 at today’s meeting.

Rtn. Chris pays close attention as Race Director Celia outlines the background of the 32-year-old RCTS Triathlon. The race has been a primary fundraiser for the club since its inauguration.

Rtn. Chris pays close attention as Race Director Celia outlines the background of the 32-year-old RCTS Triathlon. The race has been a primary fundraiser for the club since its inauguration.
TSPD officers outline current scams, crime plague

Lively examples followed TSPD Officer Anthony Boone’s presentation on scams. “We recommend you never do any banking on public WIFI,” Boone said. “Surfing is fine, but banking puts a middleman between you and your banker.”

Much of the officer’s presentation involved the internet.

“Do not answer calls if your telephone system identifies the call as spam,” he warned.

Boone said an answer tells the scammer’s computer that your telephone line is a good number.

“That scammer can then sell your number for $2,” he shared. “Then, that person resells it for $.50.”

He said only two arrests have been made in 2022 so far for electronic fraud. “TPSD can’t pursue fraud from overseas.” Many of the calls are initiated in foreign countries, and then they spoof a local number.

“If you get a call asking for donations, do your research. Check reviews before sending money.”

He touched on a good bit more than internet scams.

He got multiple solicitations in a “you have won money” scam that asked him to cash a check that was sent to him. Then, he was to send part of the deposit to the scammer.

When his check bounced, he would be out the money he had fallen for the scam.

He also warned about answering ROBO calls at all. He said if you answer that tells the computer it has a good number.

“Then if your answering machine says, “This is Joe Smith” the scammer has both your telephone number and your name.”

The same goes for call blockers. As soon as you block a call, he warned, the scammer’s computer knows he has a salable number. You are then at risk.

The scammer called and said, “You missed a jury duty summons. You owe $500 or you will be arrested.”

Pinellas County never calls for jury duty fines, he said.

After Boone’s talk, Rtn. Rich Lundahl share an anonymous story of one of his clients.

Some scammers say the victim has won something and needs to send money to claim the “prize.”

The scammer says to deposit the check at an ATM, photocopy the receipt and buy gifts cards which should be sent to the scammer.

An 82-year-old client’s wife died, he was lonely and he began a long distance conversation with a woman.

She needed money, and he sent her $40,000. She told him that was not enough. She needed an additional $60,000.

He went to Lundahl’s office to have the money sent. Rich asked his fraud division to check the person out. He was able to help the man get the check stopped and recover the money.

After the program several members spoke up during the question and answer period.

Several knew of people scammed or had been approached by scammers.

One popular scam involves home repair. The scammer contracts with the homeowner for a project and asks for money up front “to pay for materials.”

The homeowner never sees the scammer again.

Rtn. Mid Brock shared that when she sold some furniture through Facebook Marketplace, a caller from Virginia sent a check for four times her asking price “to pay the movers when they picked up the furniture.”

Mid called the scammer without cashing the check so she could return it to him. He would not take it back; he insisted that she cash it.

She wrote “void” on the face of the check and still has it. The FTC reports that Americans lost some $2.3 billion in losses last year. That is up from $1.2 billion in 2020.

CNBC and Statistica put losses at approximately $20 billion.

The FTC said it received more than 2.8 million fraud reports last year.

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The club had the largest turnout this month since the COVID pandemic hit in March 2020. Approximately 50 members were in attendance at the regularly scheduled meeting at Cypress Run Golf Club. Triathlon Director Celia told the club the event had reached its $25,000 goal for sponsorship support.
Fellowships amplify Ukrainian relief efforts

By Arnold R. Grahl

In the festive atmosphere of a gala dinner, Rotary members raised glasses in toasts and kindled friendships in Lviv as they welcomed a group of Ukrainians to the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians.

The next day, the Ukrainian members showed visitors former Eastern Bloc aircraft at a military base that had become a general aviation field.

Just a few months later, Russian forces invaded Ukraine — and the new friendships became critical connections for support and supplies.

Rotary's global network has sent millions of dollars' worth of relief and medical supplies to help the people of Ukraine. Rotary Fellowships, which bring together members who have a shared interest or hobby, have amplified the impact of these efforts.

Members of the flying fellowship leapt into action to help their fellow pilots as soon as the war began.

George Chaffey, then-world president of the fellowship, says he and other members quickly contacted the Ukrainian members, who have been instrumental in identifying the most effective ways to channel the assistance.

One of them has been Olha Paliychuk, a member of the Rotary Club of Cherkasy, Ukraine. Paliychuk, who is a doctor and working toward her pilot’s license, has helped coordinate response plans through both the flying fellowship and the International Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals.

"Within a week we raised more than $12,000 and a large volume of medical supplies, all cleared through Olha," Chaffey says. "We collect what the Ukrainians tell us they need and direct it to exactly where it is needed."

Chaffey says the fellowship members based in Hong Kong have arranged the delivery of more than $25,000 overall in medical supplies.

At one point, they raised more than $10,000 in just four days for urgently needed medical equipment. Fellowship members worked out the details of the shipment in a message chat that spanned multiple time zones.

"Talk about speed and how technology has made the world a small place," says George Ritchie, the 2022-24 world president of the group.

"I'd like to think our fellowship was one of the quickest out of the block to help."